

THE BATTALION

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Fire in the hole



STUART VILLANUEVA • THE BATTALION

Second Lieutenant Hunter Bland provides cover with his rifle as Second Lieutenant Onni Hynninen demonstrates a grenade throw to a group of Army ROTC cadets on Duncan

Drill Field Tuesday. Cadets made their way through the grenade course in pairs by ducking behind bunkers and throwing grenades at target dummies.

Herman to focus on legislative interaction

By Christina Hoffman
THE BATTALION

A&M presidential candidate Dr. Richard Herman said if offered the post, he will help A&M focus on academic excellence and developing a working relationship within the state legislature.

"It is important to pay attention to the many publics: the state, the legislature, the agriculture community, the corporate sector; and it is up to the next president to figure out how to utilize resources," Herman said.

He said he would continue President Dr. Ray M. Bowen's efforts in addressing issues concerning the possible return of Aggie Bonfire.

"It's the biggest issue on this campus; it needs to be addressed," Herman said. "But I need to look at it in depth before responding."

Herman also addressed diversity issues.

"Diversity is an issue all universities are facing. The problems are shared, but the solutions are local," he said.

Additionally, Herman said he will proceed with Bowen's Vision 2020 plan. "It's up to all to help take the next

step, which is to work together as a body to reach Vision 2020," Herman said.

Herman is the first of three publicly announced candidates to visit campus. A reception was held in the J. Wayne Stark Gallery Tuesday, giving him an opportunity to meet with students and faculty and experience the atmosphere on campus.

Herman has served as provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign since 1998. He has extensive credentials and experience in science, mathematics and education policies, serving on many advisory committees at varying universities.

He received a bachelor's degree from the Stevens Institute of Technology and a doctorate in mathematics from the University of Maryland.

During the reception, Herman welcomed guests and answered questions from faculty and advisory committee members. Dr. John Junkins, chair of the Presidential Advisory Committee, spoke briefly and introduced Herman.

Herman commented on the

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Panel looks at insensitivity

In reaction to diversity and cultural issues that have affected Texas A&M this semester, The Battalion invited a panel of student leaders to convene to discuss racial and cultural issues at Texas A&M.

The result is a three-part series on diversity and culture at A&M from students with diverse points of view, but who all agree they are proud to be Aggies.

Part one focused on the

past racial and cultural issues at A&M. Part two covers present issues affecting the campus and part three will cover the future.

By Anna Chaloupka
THE BATTALION

While many Texas A&M students responded with anger to a Battalion cartoon that many called racist, student leaders at A&M said they are more concerned about why

the majority of students reacted with either insensitivity or indifference to the issues surrounding the cartoon.

"I'm not worried about the people who didn't know about the cartoon," said Barry Hammond, Memorial Student Center executive vice president of development. "But I'm worried about the people who did pick up *The Battalion* and saw the cartoon, and said, 'Who cares?'"

Student leaders came together in a recent panel discussion to discuss a number of issues relating to diversity that have captivated the campus this semester.

Minorities feel unwelcome

Panelists said a large number of minority students get accepted to A&M but choose not to attend because of the perception of it being

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STUART VILLANUEVA • THE BATTALION

Dr. Richard Herman, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and one of three candidates named for the position of Texas A&M president, meets with visitors and the media in the Stark Gallery Tuesday. Other candidates will visit the University Thursday and next Tuesday to meet with students.

Math masters offered online

Department's Web program gives students options

By C.E. Walters
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M mathematics department will now offer graduate students around the world the option to earn their master's degree online.

The program will be mainly for people who are full-time teachers, said professor of mathematics G. Donald Allen. Graduate students will most likely take three classes a year, finishing the program within three or four years, he said. Classes offered include the history of math, math technology and linear algebra. People across the world are already making inquiries of the program, Allen said, which was approved by the Board of Regents March 22.

"[This is the] only online master's of mathematics program in the country," Allen said.

The program, which is the 11th distance-delivered degree program offered by A&M, will offer students the same courses as those offered on campus, Allen said.

Most online courses are a blend of online components and interactive video, with professors relying on email, chat rooms, bulletin boards and campus labs, said Dr. Elizabeth Tebeaux, director of the Office of Distance Education. Papers are sent via email, and testing is primarily done through a 31 School Testing Consortium, where students can attend a local university to take their exam.

"It's a real convenient format for

the working adult," Tebeaux said.

Currently, the majority of the curriculums offered for the degree are through the educational psychology department, but the entire program, which will offer a range of math courses, Tebeaux said, should be finished in less than two years.

The base price for one three-hour course is approximately \$580, but this price excludes the Instructional Enhancement Fee, the cost of which is the department's discretion. Additionally, there is a Distance Education Fee of \$40 a semester.

These courses, Tebeaux said, can also benefit a professor, making lectures on campus more focused and granting them a chance to work with students they might not otherwise connect with.

New program enhances Corps leadership training

By Marianne Hudson
THE BATTALION

In Fall 2002, a new leadership program will be in place within the Corp of Cadets to teach cadets how to work with associates in the business world, said Richard Cummins, one of the program's organizers.

The Corp Leadership Excellence Program will formalize leadership-development training in the Corps and serve as a prototype for other campus organizations to follow, Cummins said.

All corps members are eligible to enroll in the course, Cummins said. Cadets are currently required to take a one hour class in leadership training. He said cadets will examine different leadership methodology during class time and then link the models to activities within their outfits.

"This program will connect [the cadets'] knowledge and skills with the environment they are in," Cummins said. "It will show them the leadership capabilities they have."

Cummins said guest speakers from area businesses would expose cadets to different leadership requirements they might encounter and teach techniques to use in

various situations in the business world, such as how to lead employees and how to deal with supervisors.

Planning for this program, Cummins said, began in 1993 with the Association of Former Students, who formed the Blue Ribbon Committee to examine the strengths of the Corps. They hoped to

"This program should help cadets sharpen their skills in leadership."

— Joe Dickerson
Corps Commander

establish a more formalized training in leadership to add to the Corps, he said.

Corps Commander Joe Dickerson, a senior geography major, said the program will be an example for other organizations in leadership training.

"Most people recognize that the Corps is a leadership laboratory," Dickerson

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U.S. forces watch eastern Afghanistan

WASHINGTON (AP) — American forces are closely watching volatile eastern Afghanistan but have not yet figured out exactly how many al-Qaida and Taliban are hiding there and what they're up to, defense officials said Tuesday.

They played down a report by Afghans that there have been recent sightings of al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden and top aide Ayman al-Zawahri in the area near the city of Khost.

"The Khost area is a tense situation. ... It remains a dangerous place," said Pentagon briefer Brig. Gen. John W. Rosa Jr. at a news conference. "I think it would be premature to start trying to characterize what we're seeing," Rosa told a news conference.

American forces have long focused on the region near the Pakistani border and believe pockets of Taliban or al-Qaida are holed up there. But perceptions of what's happening shifts as the enemy moves and new intelligence is received, defense officials said.

The Khost area is a major land route into Pakistan to the east and borders where U.S.-led troops just conducted the largest land assault staged in the five-month-old campaign against Taliban and al-Qaida forces.



KRT CAMPUS

Commander Michael Vizcarra gets a hug from children Nicholas and Victoria as he and the air wing from the USS Roosevelt return to the Oceana Naval Air Station Tuesday.

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Aggies sweep doubleheader
Slataper, Rippee lead A&M to victory over N'western St.

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American Proud?
Patriotism has lost its importance

WEATHER

TODAY
HIGH 72° F
LOW 40° F

THURSDAY
HIGH 76° F
LOW 52° F

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